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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Reorganization of the Volkspolizei Bereitschaft in Prora

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

PREPARED [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In late December 1950, it was learned that the VP Bereitschaft in Prora was being reorganized since mid-December 1950. A fugitive policeman stated that, at the end of December 1950, the unit had an authorized strength of 2,000 police while the actual strength was unknown. The Bereitschaft was organized into four infantry kommandos and seven Sonderabteilungen, the latter being artillery, engineer, AAA, AT artillery, AT rifle, motorcycle and armored units. The officers of the unit included VP Inspekteur Pilz, (fnu), commanding officer; VP Oberrat Rudert, (fnu), PK officer; VP Oberrat Rudolph, (fnu), commanding officer of the 4th Kommando (Inf); and VP Oberkommissar Schiller, (fnu), commanding officer of 5th Sonderabteilung (AAA).
2. The unit's equipment included six T-34 tanks, three 75-mm AT guns, two four-barreled 20-mm AA guns, light and medium mortars, models 34 and 42 machine guns, submachine guns, carbines, models Walther and Mauser pistols, and five assault boats.
3. The newly organized VP Bereitschaft was made up of police from the former VP posts of Kuechensee, Eggesin, Potsdam-Eiche, and from a VP engineer unit in Brandenburg.
4. Woodland was being cleared for the construction of a target range at a distance of 1 km from Sassnitz.
5. VP Inspekteur Walter Wandel, the new commanding officer of the VP Bereitschaft in Prora, arrived at the end of December 1950. VP Rat Heinrich, (fnu), retained his position in the unit.
6. Three T-34 tanks and four smaller armored vehicles arrived in Bergen on 18 January, destined for the VP Bereitschaft in Prora.
7. On 21 January 1951, 800 VP personnel and 250 Seepolizei (Sea Police) were quartered at the Prora VP post. *

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* [REDACTED] Another source reported that the new cadre Bereitschaft in Prora which had been activated upon dissolution of the VP school there had the numerical designation 201/5. Compared with other numerical designations of newly activated VP Bereitschaften shows that the new numbers were in consecutive order from north to south. For instance, VP Bereitschaft No 219/23 is stationed in Gera, Thuringia. The number following the slash is formed by subtracting 200 from, and adding 4 to, the number proceeding the slash. It is believed that 21 to 24 new cadre Bereitschaften have been activated. The VP Bereitschaft in Prora is organized in almost the same manner as VP Bereitschaft No 207/11 in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken. Such a unit may be brought up to the strength of a Soviet-style mechanized regiment by assigning 600 to 800 enlisted police to it.

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